

Clarkston 2040- The Comprehensive Plan Update

By Shawanna Qawiy

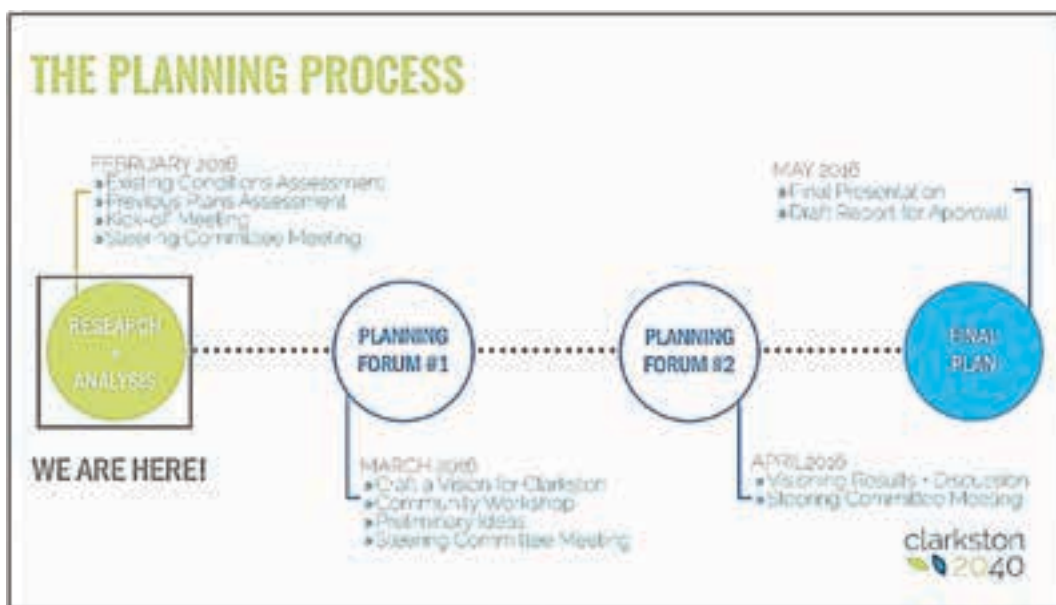
The Consultant team of TSW, along with the Public Involvement team of Contente Consulting were chosen to update the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Plan named "Clarkston 2040", has many steps before its final adoption in October 2016. The consultant team will compile and review existing city data, reports, and plans to identify the city's strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The consultant team, along with staff and a vibrant steering committee will conduct an existing conditions analysis on all required topic areas.

The Steering Committee consisting of residents, business owners, and board members in the City of Clarkston where recommended or volunteered their time to provide a diversity of professional expertise throughout the planning process. The steering committee members are Beverly Burks, Bob Hillis, Brian Bollinger, Cathy Burroughs, Charles McFarland, Cynthia Haley Dunn, Dean Moore, Floyd Blackett, J. D. McCrary, Jamie Carroll, Kitti Murray, Rupert Fike, Ruth Staples, Sataym Barakoti, Shannon Willow, Yonas Neguse, Adrya Stembridge, Pastor C. O. Adams, and Ted Terry.

Project Timeline

The table below provides a rough timeline of the Comprehensive Plan Update outreach and planning process.

The comprehensive plan serves as a guide for elected and public officials by providing the policy framework for promoting sustainable development patterns, enhancing quality of life and prioritizing public investment. More information on the Statewide Planning Goals can be found at <https://www.dca.ga.gov/development/PlanningQuality-Growth/programs/currentplans.asp>.



Public Involvement

We need your participation at the public engagement meetings. We had a successful kick off meeting on February 29th and the community, along with the Steering Committee is excited about the process and what to expect from the comprehensive plan update. We want you to stay informed at every level of the process, so come share your ideas online or join us at one of our future public input meetings.



City Councilwoman Beverly Burks & Alex Fite-Wassilak of TSW



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Clarkston Community Relations

By Sharee Ashford

Community Relations has been busy doing just that, making relations. Going into the New Year Community Relations Specialist, Sharee Ashford, has been working to engage with the many organizations that have been essential resources for Clarkston's diverse population. The message she hopes to relay is that "We are here to support your needs".

Atlanta International School Visits Clarkston

On February 5, 2016 an excited group of tenth graders, studying urban development at Atlanta International School, came to experience Clarkston first hand. They enjoyed lunch at Kathmandu Kitchen & Grill, stopped by Refuge Coffee Company, and then joined City Manager Keith Barker in the City Council chamber for a brief presentation.



(Pictured Officer Lucas, Sharee Ashford (Community Relations Specialist), and CPACS youth leadership group participants)

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(Atlanta International School students listen to the City Manager discuss plans for urban development in Clarkston)

The students learned about some of the challenges Clarkston has faced and about the vision for Clarkston moving forward. They engaged the City Manager with questions regarding Clarkston's diverse population to gain an understanding of the City's unique dynamics. The students ended their trip with a tour of various Clarkston communities and a better understanding of the application of urban development.

Minority Youth Violence Prevention

The DeKalb County Board of Health (DCBOH), on behalf of its department of Health Assessment and Promotion, with funding made available by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health and the Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, announced the availability of multi-year funding for initiatives geared to-




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wards decreasing youth violence. Youth violence continues to be a pervasive public health concern that includes bullying, fights, threats of physical harm, and gang-related violence. According to the 2013 CDC survey data, 24.7% of high school students reported having been in at least one physical fight in the year before the survey

As a part of this initiative, community organizations were rallied to assist in determining what those initiatives should look like. Among the discussion were concerns about the need for additional recreational space and activities. In support of the goal to decrease instances of youth-related violence in Clarkston, on February 27, 2016 Clarkston Community Relations and the Clarkston Police Department facilitated “Coffee with a Cop” held at Refuge Coffee Company. This community oriented policing event has been held around the nation and has been cited as being an effective tool for building community relationships with law enforcement officials and decreasing barriers related to police engagement.

Alternatives to Violence Workshops

March 12, 2016 marked the first time the City of Clarkston’s Community Relations Department held Alternative to Violence workshops in partnership with AVP Atlanta and Amani Women’s Center. The participating group consisted of 17 Bhutanese youth. The youth group was engaged in interactive techniques to increase their awareness and ability to handle violence. While the workshop was a 4-hour condensed version of the AVP Atlanta’s two day workshop, the youth group still left with some valuable information to enhance their conflict resolution skills.

For more information on Clarkston’s Community Relations please contact Sharee Ashford at sashford@cityofclarkston.com.

Continued from cover



Kick off Meeting at Clarkston Community Center

We want your input! Without your dedication and participation we are only limiting ourselves on the great ideas and possibilities in the City of Clarkston, making it a place where everyone would like to live, work and play. Join your neighbors at future public meetings, April 27th, 2016 // 6:30-8:00PM to identify preferred actions, which will provide a basis for policy development and review. The Consultant team and Staff will combine community input and technical analysis to draft an amended Comprehensive Plan, which will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Board and City Council for final adoption.

Questions?

For more information on the Clarkston 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, please contact the project team at <https://clarkston2040.wordpress.com> or Shawanna Qawiy, Planning and Development Manager for the City of Clarkston at 404.296.6489 or www.cityof-clarkston.com.



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Clarkston Public Works



The goal is to have a beautiful green grassy lawn at Milam Park by Spring.



New Equipment

In December 2015, the City purchased a Caterpillar 242D Skid Steer and a Caterpillar 416 F Back Hoe. In January and February of this year the first major project this equipment was used on was the uncovering of the granite curbing along Church Street in the newly annexed area. There was an average of three feet of pavement and curbing covered in dirt and grass. Public Works removed this dirt and exposed the granite curbing from I-285 to North Decatur Road. A total of seven dump truck loads of dirt was removed from the roadway. The dirt was temporarily stored at Milam Park.



Before



After

The dirt that was stored at Milam Park from the Church Street curb cleaning was used as top soil at Milam Park. The top soil was spread onto the bare areas at the park. Grass seed, fertilizer and wheat straw was also spread in this area.



City of Clarkston declares February 29, 2016, Clarkston Day at the Children's Museum of Atlanta

By Roberta Malavenda

Four year old children painted a wall, fished in the river without getting wet, played with magic sand, went grocery shopping, and so much more at the first annual Clarkston Day at the Museum, February 29, 2016. More than 60 children, their teachers and parents enjoyed the event, sponsored by the Children's Museum of Atlanta, Clarkston Early Learning Network, and CDF Action.

The children, parents, and teachers were among the first to experience the expansion of the Children's Museum of Atlanta and their new interactive exhibits and hands-on play. The museum is a great place for children to take ownership of their own learning, explore their curiosities and to spark imagination and inspire discovery and learning through the power of play.

On February 2, the City of Clarkston Mayor Ted Terry signed a proclamation declaring February 29 as Clarkston Day at the Children's Museum of Atlanta. In a special ceremony the day of the event, City Councilman Dean Moore talked about the importance of early learning experiences which engage families, teachers, and children in literacy, social studies, healthy living and the arts. He welcomed the participants from Clarkston's READY School, Scottdale Child Development and Family Resource Center, the Clarkston First Baptist Academy, and New American Pathways, concluding his remarks by thanking the Museum for their commitment to the importance of hands on early learning.

"The museum is fabulous," said one of the mothers. "I have only been in this country a short time. If it hadn't been for this field trip, I wouldn't have known about the museum."

The event was made possible in part by a W.K. Kellogg early learning and family engagement award to CDF Action, a not for profit organization which uses an asset based community development process to develop early learning and education programs and impact policy.

For more information about the Children's Museum of Atlanta, <http://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/>, and for CDF Action, CDFAction.org.



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Tabletop Exercise

On February 25th 2016, Chief Hudson along with other Chiefs or their designee, participated in a DeKalb County Multi-Jurisdictional Large Scale Tabletop Crisis Response Exercise, located at the Emory Conference Center Hotel.

The purpose of the exercise was to assess the Emergency Operations plans, policies and procedures of participating agencies and organizations, that would be used to manage a large Scale Crisis Response in DeKalb County.

The mock exercise began with an active shooter scenario at an office complex. Additional information was given and additional mock situations were provided as the group moved through the exercise. A total of 4 scenarios involving major incidents occurred

throughout DeKalb during the four hour event. At the conclusion of the exercise there was an opportunity for participants to voice their opinions on the exercise and on their own performance.

This was the first segment of the DeKalb County Multi-Jurisdictional Crisis Response Exercise, which was for Chiefs, their designee as well as emergency management personnel, fire, and medical/hospital participants. The second segment, planned for later this year, will involve more real world participation from all agencies.

This training is an excellent way to see how all Municipalities, Emergency Management, State Patrol, Grady Health System, and Federal Agencies will respond and work together in the event of a crisis situation.

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Spectacular Spring Salads!

Spring is a time of year for light and fresh eating. For the next few months, we will be dishing up salads with grilled meat and fresh vegetables in lieu of hearty soups and casseroles. Gone are the days of basic salads with a piece of grilled chicken, and some cheese sprinkled on top. Here are some of our favorite ways to turn a basic salad into something spectacular:

- Toss some quinoa, orzo or couscous into your salad to add a healthy grain into your diet.
- For a low fat dressing, squeeze the juice of one lemon, a bit of GOOD olive oil and salt and pepper over your lettuce. Toss well and then add the rest of your ingredients before tossing again. You will be amazed of how much flavor it gives while cutting out the fat.
- Top your salad with a piece of chicken or steak, seasoned with garlic salt and pepper.
- Add some fruit! Thinly sliced apples, a handful of berries, or citrus slices can add lots of refreshing flavor to a spring salad.
- Sliced almonds not only add “healthy fat”, but they also add a bit of texture to your salad!
- If you have leftover grilled vegetables, don’t throw them away. Throw them on top of your salad! They are delicious!
- Change up your lettuce. Don’t stick to just iceberg or romaine. Use some kale or baby spinach for a change of pace. If you don’t like the real leafy greens, you can always use butter leaf lettuce or arugula. Better yet...make a mix!

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Clarkston Culture Fest



Clarkston Culture Fest (April 30, 10a-3p)

April sees the flowers blooming, weather warming and a celebration of the blossoming culture in Clarkston. On April 30th, the Clarkston Culture Fest will hold an annual creative, fun-filled outdoors event for the entire family. The event highlights a cultural array of food, live entertainment, arts and crafts, games and activities and will feature more than 40 cultures that co-exist in the unique community of Clarkston, Georgia.

STAGE:

Throughout the day, there will be performances from Clarkston area musicians and artists both professional and amateur, including some of our local schools' performing groups. These performances will portray the cultural diversity of Clarkston, delight the audience with beautiful artistry, and encourage audience participation and engagement.

There will be a closing ceremony at 2:30pm.

CULTURAL VILLAGE:

A new focus of the festival this year, there will be numerous booths, each designed to highlight a different culture that is represented in Clarkston. The booths will be staffed by Clarkston residents who will educate the festivalgoers about the language, culture traditions, artifacts, and dress of his/her culture, and will also provide an opportunity for interaction and questions.

KID'S ZONE:

Geared for the younger population, but open to kids of all ages, this area will provide activities such as: Face/nail painting, Henna, Hair braiding, Inflatable bouncy games, Photo ops, limited sports options, and carnival games for children. Children will use an “activity card” to experience activities then trade the completed card in for a prize bag.

VENDORS:

Local vendors will sell their wares encouraging people to support local entrepreneurs. City organizations will also display important information for citizen awareness.

Local vendors will sell food and drink for the people to delight in an array of delicious flavors.

SHUTTLES:

People who park in designated parking areas further away from the festival activities

will be shuttled to/from the festival in regular shuttles.

CONTACT:

Clarkston Community 5K Festival Contact Information:

www.clarkstonculturefest.org

email: clarkstonculturefest@gmail.com

404-292-5686, ext. 239

General 5K Race Info

A new feature to the 2016 Festival is the partnership with Great Day Connections (GDC) Community 5K Walk/Run. Great Day Connections Community 5K is a fundraiser to benefit children who are Deaf, hard of hearing or non-verbal, through a scholarship that will provide tutoring in reading. GDC will also donate books for children ages birth-3, who are entering the foster-care system. Non-profit organizations, clubs, schools, and other supporters of children and families are welcomed to join this amazing, fun event!

Race Start:

The race will begin at Milam Park -3867
Norman Road, Clarkston, GA

Pre-5K Activities (Time TBD)

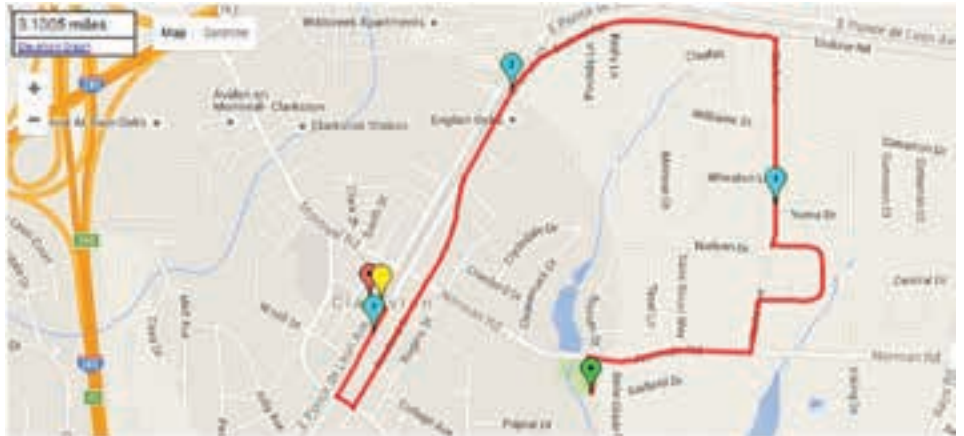
Wave 1 Start: 8:30AM (Runners)

Wave 2 Start: 8:45AM (Walkers)

Race Finish and Festival Activities:

The race concludes in Downtown Clarkston,
Market Street, Clarkston, GA 30021

There will be an Awards Ceremony at 9:30AM





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